

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-2 (Canceled).

3. (Currently Amended) A composition consisting of isolated pluripotent adult stem cells obtained from an exocrine glandular tissue of a salivary gland, a lacrimal gland, a sudoriferous gland, a sebaceous gland and/or gastrointestinal tissue ~~The pluripotent adult stem cells according to Claim 2~~, wherein the exocrine glandular tissue originates from a mammal.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) The pluripotent adult stem cellscomposition according to Claim 34, wherein the exocrine glandular tissue is acinar tissue.

6. (Currently Amended) The pluripotent adult stem cellscomposition according to Claim 5, wherein the acinar tissue is derived from the pancreas, the parotid gland or the mandibular gland.

7. (Currently Amended) The pluripotent adult stem cellscomposition according to Claim 34, being capable of forming organoid bodies.

8. (Currently Amended) The pluripotent adult stem cellscomposition according to Claim 34, being capable of differentiating into cell types of all three germ layers in a culture medium that does not contain any additional growth factors or differentiation factors after culturing under spatial conditions which ensure three-dimensional contact of the cells.

9. (Currently Amended) The pluripotent adult stem cellscomposition according to Claim 34, wherein even after freezing/cryopreservation, the cells still retain an ability for self-renewal and unlimited division and do not differentiate.

10. (Currently Amended) A stem cell culture comprising the stem cellsconsisting essentially of the composition according to Claim 34 in a culture medium adapted to allow stable maintenance and proliferation of the cells essentially without differentiation.

11. (Previously Presented) The stem cell culture according to Claim 10, wherein the culture medium does not include any feeder cell layer.

12. (Previously Presented) The stem cell culture according to Claim 10, wherein the cells retain an ability for self-renewal and unlimited division for more than 25 passages.

13. (Previously Presented) The stem cell culture according to Claim 12, wherein the cells retain the ability for self-renewal and unlimited division for more than 50 passages.

14. (Currently Amended) A primary stem cell culture obtained from exocrine glandular tissue, wherein the exocrine glandular tissue is obtained from a salivary gland, a lacrimal gland, a sudoriferous gland and/or a sebaceous gland of a mammal and a majority of living cells present in the culture are undifferentiated pluripotent adult stem cells.

Claims 15-47 (Canceled).

48. (New) A composition comprising isolated pluripotent adult stem cells obtained from an exocrine glandular tissue of a salivary gland, a lacrimal gland, a sudoriferous gland, and/or a sebaceous gland, wherein the exocrine glandular tissue originates from a mammal.

49. (New) A stem cell culture comprising the composition according to Claim 48 in a culture medium adapted to allow stable maintenance and proliferation of the cells essentially without differentiation.

50. (New) A stem cell culture consisting essentially of the composition according to Claim 48 in a culture medium adapted to allow stable maintenance and proliferation of the cells essentially without differentiation.

51. (New) A primary stem cell culture obtained from exocrine glandular tissue from a salivary gland, a lacrimal gland, a sudoriferous gland, a sebaceous gland and/or gastrointestinal tissue of a mammal, wherein living cells from the exocrine glandular tissue present in the culture consist essentially of undifferentiated pluripotent adult stem cells.

52. (New) The primary stem cell culture according to Claim 51, wherein the living cells present in the culture consist of undifferentiated pluripotent adult stem cells.

53. (New) The primary stem cell culture according to Claim 51, wherein the exocrine glandular tissue is acinar tissue.

54. (New) The primary stem cell culture according to Claim 53, wherein the acinar tissue is derived from the pancreas, the parotid gland or the mandibular gland.

55. (New) The primary stem cell culture according to Claim 51, adapted to allow stable maintenance and proliferation of the cells essentially without differentiation.

56. (New) The primary stem cell culture according to Claim 51, wherein the mammal is a primate or a rodent.

57. (New) The primary stem cell culture according to Claim 51, wherein the mammal is a human.

58. (New) The primary stem cell culture according to Claim 51, wherein the mammal is a rat.

59. (New) The composition according to Claim 3, wherein the mammal is a primate or a rodent.

60. (New) The composition according to Claim 3, wherein the mammal is a human.

61. (New) The composition according to Claim 3, wherein the mammal is a rat.